



NEWS

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Three Exemplary Students Named El Camino College Compton Center's 2011 Presidential Scholars

Three El Camino College Compton Center students who have worked hard to prepare themselves for the next step in their academic careers have been honored with the 2011 Presidential Scholars Award. Marisela Chavez, Monique Harris, and Luis Paredes each received the prestigious award in recognition of their academic achievements and contributions to ECC Compton Center. Here are their personal success stories:

Marisela Chavez

When Marisela Chavez graduated from high school, she enrolled at California State University, Fullerton. But, the pressures of attending such a large campus at a young age proved to be too much. After taking a semester off from her studies, Chavez enrolled at ECC Compton Center.

ECC Compton Center's personalized attention and small classes have helped change Chavez's initial impressions about higher education. She now knows that even though a subject may seem challenging at first, it is not impossible to succeed in it.

"My professors have shown me, through example, that so many things can be accomplished in a lifetime. I have learned so much from the professors here and not just the material they were teaching," says Chavez.

Chavez feels strongly that ECC Compton Center has given her a solid foundation, upon which she is able to continue building her education. "I know that attending a big university will be different from attending ECC Compton Center, but I am ready to face that change. I now have the confidence to pursue my bachelor's degree and possibly even further," Chavez says.

Monique Harris

Monique Harris is a business administration major who plans on transferring to the University of California, Riverside, and dreams of starting her own nonprofit organization called The Highest Tree. She wants to assist and inspire others because of the way she has been motivated at ECC Compton Center. Harris credits the professors at ECC Compton Center for teaching her that if she sets her mind to something, nothing is impossible.

"I am proud to say that I attended ECC Compton Center because for two years, teachers, students and experiences have helped me mature and made me believe that it's not about where you've been in life, it's about where you're going," says Harris. "ECC Compton Center was an important step in my life toward success, and I honestly believe that if I had not come to this school first that I would not be the young woman I am today."

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ECC Compton Center provided Harris with the resources she needed to become confident in herself. Now, she is ready to use her newfound confidence in order to make a difference in the lives of others.

Luis Paredes

Luis Paredes is an ambitious biology major who plans to transfer to a UC school to earn his bachelor's degree in microbiology. Because of the education he received at ECC Compton Center this goal, as well as a career in clinical lab science or public health, is now within reach. When Paredes graduated from Narbonne High School in 2002 he had no plans to go to college. In fact, Paredes began working as an auto dismantler and did so for six years. It wasn't until Paredes had the idea to open up his own business that he considered going back to school.

He had reservations about becoming a student again, but enrolled at ECC Compton Center in spring 2008. In his first semester he earned straight A's and knew that he had made the right decision. Paredes says, "Being introduced to new ideas and having contact with encouraging people such as my fellow students and professors motivated me to make the most out of life."

During Paredes' time at ECC Compton Center he played on the men's soccer team and studied hard enough to earn a 3.89 GPA. "ECC Compton Center is a great school that has enriched my life in so many ways," says Paredes.

About El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center is the community's education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year university or train for a career. Many classes are available and offered at an affordable price—fees are only \$26 per unit. The catalog and class schedule for day, evening, weekend and online courses is available on the website at www.compton.edu or may be picked up at ECC Compton Center located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA. For more information, call 310-900-1600.

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